Telephone Connections by Basic Services Operators

2606. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :

SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some basic services operators are not providing telephone connections to residential customers as per demand and are catering only to preferred customers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken against such private operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) It was brought to the notice of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) that some of the Basic Telephone Service Operators are not providing telephone connections to residential customers as per demand and are catering only to preferred customer. TRAI carried out an investigation in the matter covering entire registration process of the private Basic Telephone Service Operators and found that some of the columns in the application forms for registration of telephone connection of some of the operators were such as to have the effect of discouraging potential residential subscribers from applying for a telephone without being discriminated. TRAI has taken steps to have these application forms modified and has issued a directive under Section 11(1) (b) and Section 13 of the TRAI Act.

Opening of International Telephone Business

2607. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact the Government's decision to open the international telephone business to unlimited competitors from April 1, 2002 has lowered the value of VSNL jeopardizing its disinvestment proposal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir, Decline in VSNL's share price is on account of various market forces and market sentiments and not necessarily because of decision to open the international telephone business to unlimited competitors.

(b) Government has however decided to grant following compensation packages to VSNL in lieu of terminating the monopoly of VSNL on International telephone business.

(i) Licence to run National Long Distance Services, paying back entry fee and licence fee for a period of 5 years.

(ii) Waiver of Performance Bank Guarantee of Rs. 400 crore.

(iii) Grant of Category 'A' ISP licence for providing Internet services at all India level.

Opening of Sub Post Office at Nandla Village

†2608. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any application regarding opening up of a sub Post Office in village Nandla under Shimla district; and

(b) if so, by when a sub post office would be opened in this village?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Opening of a Sub Post Office at village Nandla under Shimla district is not justified under the existing norms for opening of post offices.

Capacity of Khajurahat Telephone Exchange

2609. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the installed capacity of Khajurahat Telephone Exchange of Faizabad in U.P.;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.